

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-10 IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6695

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3819

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE AUSTRIAN
GOVERNMENT

REF: A. STATE 35814; B. USNATO 1972; C. USNATO 2655

1. ON JULY 9, ASSISTANT SYG KASTL CALLED TO HIS OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES OF US, UK AND GERMAN DELEGATIONS AND CONVEYED TO THEM LATEST ITALIAN PROPOSAL TO RESOLVE THE DIVISION OF EXPENSES OF THE CONFERENCE FACILITIES FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA. KASTL REPORTED THAT THE ITALIANS WERE NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT THE HELSINKI FORMULA THROUGH JUNE 30, AND WOULD NOT INSIST ON MAKING THE PAYMENT UNDER A NEW COST-SHARING FORMULA RETROACTIVE IN THE PERIOD BEFORE JUNE 30. KASTL SAID THAT IF THIS PROPOSITION WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US, UK AND FRG, THE ITALIANS WOULD RAISE THE MATTER IN THE COUNCIL.

2. ALL THREE DELEGATIONS STATED THAT THEY WERE CONFIDENT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS PROPOSITION WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEIR AUTHORITIES. KASTL SAID THAT HE WOULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS THAT IF HE DID NOT HEAR FROM DELEGATIONS TO THE CONTRARY BY COB JULY 15, HE WOULD INSCRIBE THE ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR AN EARLY COUNCIL

MEETING AS DESIRED BY THE ITALIANS.

3. MEMBER OF ITALINA DELEGATION LATER TOLD US MISSION OFFICER THAT HIS DELEGATION PRESENTLY CONSIDERS THIS "AS A PROPOSAL BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF". IF THE US, UK AND FRG FIND IT ACCEPTABLE, THE ITALIAN DELEGATION CAN PROBABLEY RECOMMEND IT TO ROME. HE ESTIMATED PROPOSAL WOULD THEN HAVE 80-100 PERCENT CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE IN ROME. HE SAID ROME WOULD WANT VIENNA COMMON FACILITIES FORMULA AS POST JUNE 30 BASIS OF PAYMENT.

4. COMMENT: MISSION IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TAKING IN NAC POSITION STATED IN REF A, I.E. HOLDING ITALY TO HELSINKI FORMULA WHILE LETTING UK TAKE THE LEAD. WE DOUBT THAT UK WILL CHANGE ITS POSITION UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, OR THAT FRG WILL CHANGE ITS POSITION AS LONG AS BOTH UK AND US ARE FIRM. WE ASSUME ITALY WILL CONTINUE TAKING POSITION IN NAC THAT ITALIAN PAYMENT OF SAME SHARE OF CONFERENCE COSTS AS US, UK AND FRG IS IMPOSSIBLE TOO JUSTIFY TO ITALIAN PARLIAMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION, AND IS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE (REF B). WE ALSO ASSUME DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) WILL CONTINUE ARGUING IN NAC THAT ALL THE SMALLER NATO PARTICIPANTS IN MBFR ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ITALIAN ARGUMENTS, AND THAT US, FRG AND UK SHOULD GO ALONG (REF B AND C).
END COMMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION REQUESTS WASHINGTON CONFIRMATION THAT US WISHES TO REMAIN WITH HELSINKI FORMULA. RUMSFELD

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